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COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session of 1995
21-25 August 1995
Agenda item 2 (d)*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION I, PARAGRAPH 7, OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 40/243

Note by the Secretariat

1. In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, the General Assembly decided that "no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly".

2. Every year, a certain number of requests for exceptions to that rule are received. In accordance with established practice, the requests are first submitted to the Committee on Conferences, which then makes a recommendation to the General Assembly for the required authorization.

3. At its 1986 session, the Committee on Conferences reviewed the procedure by which it dealt with such requests and decided that in future the following procedure should be adopted: 1/

(a) Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly wishing to request explicit authorization from the Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the session should write to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, except for unforeseen circumstances, before the substantive session of the Committee; the letter should be circulated to all members of the Committee, together with appropriate servicing information provided by the Secretariat;

(b) The request should contain the reason or reasons why the authorization is being requested and/or the reason or reasons why the organ concerned did not finish its work during the time allotted to it and in compliance with the

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* A/AC.172/160.

1 September deadline for the completion of reports of subsidiary organs of the Assembly laid down in Assembly resolution 40/243, section I, paragraph 6;

(c) The request should also explain why it is necessary to meet during the Assembly and should specify, to the extent possible, the number of meetings that would be required;

(d) In the event that approval is forthcoming, all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an "as available" basis from within existing resources in such a way that the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees is not impeded.

4. The annex to the present document contains requests received to date from subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the fiftieth session of the Assembly, as well as the relevant statistical information.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/41/32), para. 64.

Annex

I. REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS DURING THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Letter from the Chairman

[Original: English]

[11 July 1995]

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will again need authorization to hold meetings during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly in order to carry out its mandate.

As you are no doubt aware, the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/62 A of 14 December 1994, requested the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.

As the Committee has no control over the timing of the events that it is called upon to discuss, it needs to meet throughout the year as circumstances dictate. On the basis of past experience, it is envisaged that the Committee would require facilities for approximately six meetings during the General Assembly session. These would be in addition to the meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is already included in the approved calendar for 1995.

It would be highly appreciated if the Committee on Conferences would agree to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to meet during the fiftieth session of the Assembly.

2. Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Executive Board

[Original: English]

[13 July 1995]

Once again, I fear, we are facing a dilemma with regard to the timing of the third regular session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a partial overlap with the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Executive Board has made it clear that it cannot meet in parallel with the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (26 June-28 July), the third regular session of the Executive Board of

the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund (28 August-1 September), the Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September) and the General Assembly of the United Nations after 22 September.

On an informal basis, we have been given to understand that the Secretariat could provide full services during the week of 18 to 22 September 1995, subject to the granting of special permission from the General Assembly.

Accordingly, we very much hope that the Committee on Conferences will give favourable consideration to our request to hold the third regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board from 18 to 22 September 1995, with the understanding that no meetings would be held on the afternoon of the opening of the General Assembly, 19 September 1995.

3. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Letter from the Secretary of the Working Group

[Original: English]

[25 July 1995]

In resolution 49/35 B, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, on the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Assembly requested that the Working Group continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year.

In order to meet that request, the Working Group needs the latest data with regard to the UNRWA budget, i.e., up-to-date information on the current budget and precise indications as to the revenue required and the anticipated contributions for the next fiscal year. UNRWA has not been in a position to supply the Working Group with this timely information any earlier than September 1995, and the Working Group cannot prepare its report to the fiftieth session without this important material.

In view of the obligation of the Working Group to submit its up-to-date report not later than the first half of October for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the General Assembly, little time is available for the few meetings of the Working Group and for the preparation of its report.

It would be very much appreciated if you could draw to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the request of the Working Group that it be authorized to meet during the first weeks of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

4. Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[26 July 1995]

According to operative paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country is authorized by the Assembly to convene on a periodic basis and whenever it is convoked by its Chairman at the request of any Member State of the United Nations or the Secretary-General. Since its establishment in 1971, the Committee has always met during the regular sessions of the Assembly in order to consider, among other matters, problems experienced by certain delegations in connection with their participation in those sessions and to finalize its annual report and to present it to the Assembly.

In its resolution 49/56 of 9 December 1994, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI), and to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. Accordingly, as in previous years, a request that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country be permitted to meet during the fiftieth session of the Assembly is herewith submitted.

Please note that, having due regard to the nature of the Committee, its work and previous experiences, it would suffice to make the necessary conference facilities available for two or three meetings only.

II. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The following statistics refer to meetings with interpretation held during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the bodies listed above. The number of meetings planned by subsidiary organs during the regular session is not included because such meetings are approved only on an ad hoc basis and on the understanding that services are provided only as and when they are not required for meetings of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

	Number of meetings held	Hours and minutes lost		Total hours and minutes lost
		Late starting	Early ending	
Committee on Relations with the Host Country	2	0.30	3.05	3.35
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	6	2.50	5.50	8.40
Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1	0.15	2.30	2.45
Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund	6	1.35	-	1.35